



California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans News

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



June 18, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF SAN DIEGO SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Josiah W. Hollopeter, of San Diego, CA:

"Maria and I express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Specialist Josiah Hollopeter. In selfless service to our nation, Josiah courageously undertook his duties and responsibilities. We owe a debt of gratitude to Josiah, his family and all those who have made tremendous sacrifices in the fight for freedom and democracy."

Hollopeter, 27, died June 14 in Balad, Iraq, as a result of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by insurgents using small arms fire in Al Muqdadiyah, Iraq. Hollopeter was assigned to the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, United States Army, Fort Hood, TX.

In honor of Spc. Hollopeter, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



June 25, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF CARMICHAEL SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Pfc. Raymond N. Spencer Jr., of Carmichael, CA:

"Maria and I offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Private First Class Raymond Spencer. His loss reminds us all of the perils he faced as he defended freedom and democracy for all Americans and his service will not be forgotten."

Spencer, 23, died June 21 as a result of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by insurgents using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire in Baghdad, Iraq. Spencer was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, United States Army, Fort Bliss, TX.

In honor of Pfc. Spencer, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



June 25, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF TWO CAMP PENDLETON MARINES

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Wilson of Duluth, GA and Sgt. Shawn P. Martin of Delmar, NY:

"Serving our country is a noble task that Staff Sergeant Stephen Wilson and Sergeant Shawn Martin performed with bravery and fortitude. They courageously stood proudly beside their fellow Marines to serve our country. We send our sincerest condolences to their family and friends in Georgia and New York."

Wilson, 28, and Martin, 30, died June 20 as a result of wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Wilson and Martin were assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 13, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Wilson and Sgt. Martin, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



June 26, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF FULLERTON SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Pvt. Shane M. Stinson, of Fullerton, CA:

"As a member of the armed forces, Private Shane Stinson fulfilled a tremendous responsibility to our nation. Shane reminds us of the courage and valor of all our service men and women serving in our nation's military. Maria and I extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Shane."

Stinson, 23, died June 23 as a result of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by insurgents using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire in Baghdad, Iraq. Stinson was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Army, Fort Benning, GA.

In honor of Pvt. Stinson, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 6, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF CHULA VISTA SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Michael J. Martinez, of Chula Vista, CA:

"Maria and I join all Californians in mourning the loss of Sergeant Michael J. Martinez. Michael served his country selflessly and his bravery and courage in defending our nation will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and fellow soldiers."

Martinez, 24, died June 28 as a result of wounds sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents using improvised explosive devices in Baghdad, Iraq. Martinez was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division, United States Army, Fort Carson, CO.

In honor of Sgt. Martinez, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 6, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF LA VERNE SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Pfc. Cory F. Hiltz, of La Verne, CA:

"Maria and I extend our sincerest condolences to the friends and family of Private First Class Cory Hiltz. In selfless service to our country, Cory courageously undertook the duty and responsibility as a member of the United States Army. We are forever indebted to him and his family."

Hiltz, 20, died June 28 as a result of wounds sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents using improvised explosive devices in Baghdad, Iraq. Hiltz was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division, United States Army, Fort Carson, CO.

In honor of Pfc. Hiltz, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 6, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Giann C. Joya-Mendoza, of North Hollywood, CA:

"Today, Californians mourn the tragic loss of Sergeant Joya-Mendoza. Giann served with courage and dedication, making the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Maria and I wish to express our sincere condolences to his family and friends and we will pray for their comfort during this difficult time."

Joya-Mendoza, 27, died June 28 as a result of wounds sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents

using improvised explosive devices in Baghdad, Iraq. Joya-Mendoza was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division, United States Army, Fort Carson, CO.

In honor of Sgt. Joya-Mendoza, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 6, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF RIALTO SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Victor A. Garcia, of Rialto, CA:

"Today, we pay tribute and honor Specialist Victor Garcia for his dedication to freedom and democracy and his service to our nation. Words cannot adequately express our reverence for Victor's sacrifice. Maria and I send our sincerest thoughts and prayers to his family and friends in this time of grief."

Garcia, 22, died July 1 as a result of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire in Baghdad, Iraq. Garcia was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), United States Army, Fort Lewis, WA.

In honor of Spc. Garcia, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 6, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF YOSEMITE SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sgt. Michael L. Ruoff Jr., of Yosemite, CA:

"Maria and I send our condolences to the family and friends of Staff Sergeant Michael Ruoff. His commitment and service overseas is a resounding reminder of the importance of democracy and freedom. Michael's honorable sacrifice will not be forgotten."

Ruoff, 31, died July 1 as a result of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire in Ta'meem, Iraq. Ruoff was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, United States Army, Schweinfurt, Germany.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Ruoff, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 9, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF C MARINE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Lance Cpl. Juan M. Garcia Schill of Grants Pass, OR:

"With respect and gratitude, Maria and I express our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Juan Garcia Schill. Juan fought courageously to protect the freedom and democracy of our nation. His honorable sacrifice will not be forgotten."

Schill, 20, died July 2 as a result of wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Schill was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, United States Marine Corps, Twentynine Palms, CA.

In honor of Lance Cpl. Schill, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 9, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF HAWTHORNE SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Thomas P. McGee, of Hawthorne, CA:

"Maria and I, along with all Californians, are saddened by the loss of Sergeant Thomas McGee. As a soldier, Thomas courageously fulfilled his duty and service to his country. We are forever indebted to him and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

McGee, 23, died July 6 as a result of wounds sustained when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Wazi Khwa, Afghanistan. McGee was assigned to the 546th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, United States Army, Fort Stewart, GA.

In honor of Sgt. McGee, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 10, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF BARSTOW SAILOR

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Phillip Daugherty, of Barstow, CA:

"Maria and I want to convey our sympathy to the family of Petty Officer First Class Steven Daugherty during this difficult time. Steven answered the call of military service and his commitment to his country and his fellow servicemen and women will not be forgotten. Our prayers go out to his family and friends."

Daugherty, 28, died July 6 as a result of enemy action while conducting combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. Daugherty was assigned to the currently deployed east coast-base Navy SEAL Team, Norfolk, VA.

In honor of Petty Officer 1st Class Daugherty, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 10, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF CONCORD SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Maj. James M. Ahearn, of Concord, CA:

"Major James Ahearn fulfilled a tremendous service to our nation and its citizens. His commitment to duty and loyalty to our country reflects his noble character. Maria and I join all Californians in extending our sympathies to James' family and friends."

Ahearn, 43, died July 5 as a result of wounds sustained when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. Ahearn was assigned to 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, United States Army, Fort Bragg, NC.

In honor of Maj. Ahearn, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 10, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF MONTEREY SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. 1st Class Sean K. Mitchell, of Monterey, CA:

"Sergeant First Class Sean Mitchell valiantly fought for the freedoms that we hold most sacred. Californians are forever grateful for his sacrifice for our nation. Maria and I pray for Sean's family, friends and fellow soldiers as they mourn the loss of a loved one."

Mitchell, 35, died July 7 as a result of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident in Kidal, Mali. Mitchell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, United States Army, Stuttgart, Germany.

In honor of Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



July 11, 2007

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF SAN JOSE SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Roberto J. Causor Jr., of San Jose, CA:

"Maria and I respect Specialist Roberto Causor's unwavering fortitude in the face of ultimate danger. Roberto has left an honorable legacy of safeguarding the rights for which our nation stands. Maria and I extend our sympathies to his family and friends as they mourn their loss."

Causor, 21, died July 7 as a result of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire in Samarra, Iraq. Causor was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army, Fort Bragg, NC.

In honor of Spc. Causor, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Note to editors: This News for Veterans and previous CDVA news for veterans, news releases, and advisories are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov.